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I, JANENE PEISKER, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2004900714 for a patent by NOEL SIDNEY DAVIDSON WOOD, RORY CAMPBELL KENNARD and DAVID BARTON WILD as filed on 13 February 2004.

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Seventeenth day of February 2005

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JANENE PEISKER
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AUSTRALIA
Patents Act 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION FOR THE INVENTION ENTITLED:

AN OPENED BOOK HOLDING DEVICE

The invention is described in the following statement:-

The present invention relates to books and, in particular, to an opened book holding device which permits an open book to be held open at a selected pair of adjacent pages.

Reading a book usually requires the use of at least one of the hands of the reader. Generally both hands are required. This requirement arises because of the tendency of some books to self close either due to the resilience of the spine of the book, or for some external reason such as a breeze turning a page. Often the reader's hands are required simply because there are no other means to support the book at a convenient reading angle and reading distance.

Manually holding a book open for a period can be tiring, particularly for the elderly and infirm. Holding a book open is also inconvenient, for example where a student is making notes. Holding a book open can also cause discomfort, for example, on a cold winter's night.

In the past various ways and means have been devised to support books at a convenient angle. The simplest of these is a lectern or other inclined surface. Some of these devices go further and hold the pages of the book open as well. However, many of these contraptions are so complicated as to be more trouble than they are worth, especially where turning a page is involved. Other devices suffer from various disadvantages. For example, clear plastic cook book covers are known to hold cooking or recipe books open at the page displaying a recipe, and also inclined at a convenient reading angle. However, such devices often cause distracting reflections and are very inconvenient for page turning.

The object of the present invention is to provide an opened book holding device to permit an open book to be held open at a selected pair of adjacent pages with the book being held at a convenient angle and distance from the reader.

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention there is disclosed an opened book holding device to permit an opened book to be held open at a selected pair of adjacent pages, said device comprising a base, a lip extending upwardly from said base and dimensioned to abut with a lower edge of said book, at least one cover support mounted on said base and dimensioned to support a corresponding outer cover of said book, biasing means to resiliently bias the or each said cover support to

urge same towards said lip, said lip and cover support(s) being dimensioned to resiliently clamp said opened book therebetween.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention there is disclosed a method of holding open a selected pair of adjacent pages of a book having a front cover, a back cover, and a plurality of pages, said method comprising the steps of:

(i) opening said book at said selected pair of adjacent pages,

(ii) placing said covers on a cover support means, and

(iii) resiliently urging said cover support means towards a lip to abut said book with said lip to thereby clamp said book between said lip and said cover support means.

Two embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view from above of a book holding device of a first embodiment fabricated from a single sheet of Perspex, like plastics material, or even sheet steel,

Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1 but showing a book held in the device of the first embodiment,

Fig. 3 is an exploded rear perspective view of a book holding device of the second embodiment,

Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the device of Fig. 3 assembled, and

Fig. 5 is a partial rear elevation about a centre line of the device of Figs. 3 and 4, the non-illustrated portion being symmetrical about the centre line with the illustrated portion.

As seen in Figs. 1 and 2, the device 10 of the first embodiment is formed from a base 7, a rear wall 8 and front wall 2. The front wall 2 is provided with a pair of lips 1 which each extends approximately half way across the width of the device 10 and is

preferably divided in two by a bight 6 which preferably extends through the lip 1 and part way through the front wall 2.

Extending from the rear wall 8 in cantilever fashion are two cover supports 3 which are separated by a gap 5 which terminates in a bight 9 in the rear wall 8.

The length of the cover supports 3 is preferably selected so as to enable the free ends of the cover supports 3 to engage the lips 1 as illustrated in Fig. 1 with the natural resilience of the plastics material ensuring that the cover supports 3 are urged upwardly in the direction of arrows 4 as seen in Fig. 1.

In use, as illustrated in Fig. 2, the spine 12 of a book 13 is aligned with, and protrudes into, the gap 5 and the cover supports 3 are depressed by engaging same with the front and rear covers (obscured in Fig. 2) of the book 13. The book 13 is held open at the two adjacent pages which the reader wishes to read and the lower edge of each of these pages is located under the lip 1 so as not to in any way obscure the text printed on the pages. In this configuration, as illustrated in Fig. 2, the natural resilience of the cover support 3 means that the book 13 is effectively clamped between the cover supports 3 and lips 1. The front wall 2 prevents the book from moving further under the lips 1 than the intended overlap.

If the reader wishes to turn the page, two possible mechanisms are able to be used. In the first, the book 13 is pushed away from the reader, lifted clear of lip 1, the page turned, and the book replaced by reversing the sequence. Alternatively, one side (eg the right side) of the book 13 can be depressed, the corresponding (right) page turned by being slid out from underneath the corresponding (right) lip 1, that (right) page then being turned over so as to lie above the other (left) side of the book which is in turn depressed so as to permit the turned page to be located under the corresponding (left) lip 1.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the mechanical arts that the height of the book is not restricted by the length of the cover supports 3. Also, that the width of the pages is not restricted by the length of the lips 1.

Furthermore, it is not necessary for the free ends of the cover supports 3 to engage with the lips 1, it is only necessary for the cover supports 3 to be of a length

sufficient to clamp the book 13 between the cover supports 3 and the lips 1. If the cover supports 3 are made too short, the book 13 will develop a tendency to be rotated about the upper edges of the lips 1 into a more upright position than is desired.

In an alternative arrangement to that illustrated in Fig. 2, only the covers of the book 13 are clamped between the lips 1 and cover supports 3 so that all the pages may be turned freely if desired.

An advantage of having two cover supports 3 is that a thick book 13 can be clamped with vastly different numbers of pages clamped between each pair of lips 1 and the corresponding cover support 3. The gap 5 accommodates the spine 12 of the book 13.

Turning now to Figs. 3-5, a second embodiment of a book holding device 20 is illustrated. A rear wall 28, front wall 22 and lips 21 are substantially as before. However, in this embodiment these members are pivoted from a base 27 and are able to be supported in a number of positions by means of a C-shaped wire brace 24. The base 27 preferably includes four rubber feet 29 which ensure good frictional engagement between the base 27 and a supporting table, for example. The brace 24 is pivoted adjacent the mid point of the rear wall 28 and is engagable with any one of a number of anchor points 30 formed in the base 27. The cover supports 23 are cantilevered as before and are again preferably dimensioned so as to be engagable with the lips 21 as indicated in Fig. 4.

The foregoing describes only two embodiments of the present invention and modifications, obvious to those skilled in the art, can be made thereto without departing from the scope of the present invention. For example, it is possible for the bight 6, gap 5 and bight 9 of Fig. 1 not to be utilized so that only a single lip and a single cover support are created. This is less advantageous, however. Furthermore, rather than rely on the natural resilience of the material from which the rear wall 8, 28 and cover supports 3, 23 are fabricated, the necessary resilience can be provided by a block of rubber or other elastomer wedged into the nip between the cover supports 3, 23 and real wall 8, 28. Also the base 7, 27 or real wall 28 can include clamps for attachment to table edges, chair arms (including wheel chairs), and the like. The base

or real wall can also be mounted on an upstand extending from a floor thereby permitting use alongside a bed or lounge chair.

Similarly, the base 27 can be dispensed with and the brace 24 used in the manner of a support for a photographic frame. In a further modification, the page engaging surfaces of the lip(s) 1 can be friction enhanced by, for example, knurling.

The term "comprising" (and its grammatical variations) as used herein is used in the inclusive sense of "having" or "including" and not in the exclusive sense of "consisting only of".

ASPECTS OF THE INVENTION

The following paragraphs define some aspects of the present invention:

1. An opened book holding device to permit an opened book to be held open at a selected pair of adjacent pages, said device comprising a base, a lip extending upwardly from said base and dimensioned to abut with a lower edge of said book, at least one cover support mounted on said base and dimensioned to support a corresponding outer cover of said book, biasing means to resiliently bias the or each said cover support to urge same towards said lip, said lip and cover support(s) being dimensioned to resiliently clamp said opened book therebetween.

2. The device as defined in paragraph 1 and having a pair of said cover supports each of which is independently resiliently biased.

3. The device as defined in paragraph 1 or 2 wherein the said cover support(s) are adjustably mounted on said base to alter the degree of inclination thereof relative to said base.

4. The device as defined in paragraph 3 wherein said cover support(s) are pivoted relative to said base.

5. The device as defined in paragraph 3 or 4 wherein cover supports are selectively inclinable relative to said base into any one of a plurality of pre-selected positions.

6. The device as defined in any one of paragraphs 1-5 wherein the or each said cover support is formed as a cantilever which constitutes said biasing means.

7. An opened book holding device to permit an opened book to be held open at a selected pair of adjacent pages, said device being substantially as herein described with reference to Figs. 1 and 2 or Figs. 3-5 of the drawings.

8. A method of holding open a selected pair of adjacent pages of a book having a front cover, a back cover, and a plurality of pages, said method comprising the steps of:

(i) opening said book at said selected pair of adjacent pages,

(ii) placing said covers on a cover support means, and

(iii) resiliently urging said cover support means towards a lip to abut said book with said lip to thereby clamp said book between said lip and said cover support means.

9. A method of holding open a selected paid of adjacent pages of a book, said method being substantially as herein described with reference to the drawings.

Dated this 13th day of February 2004

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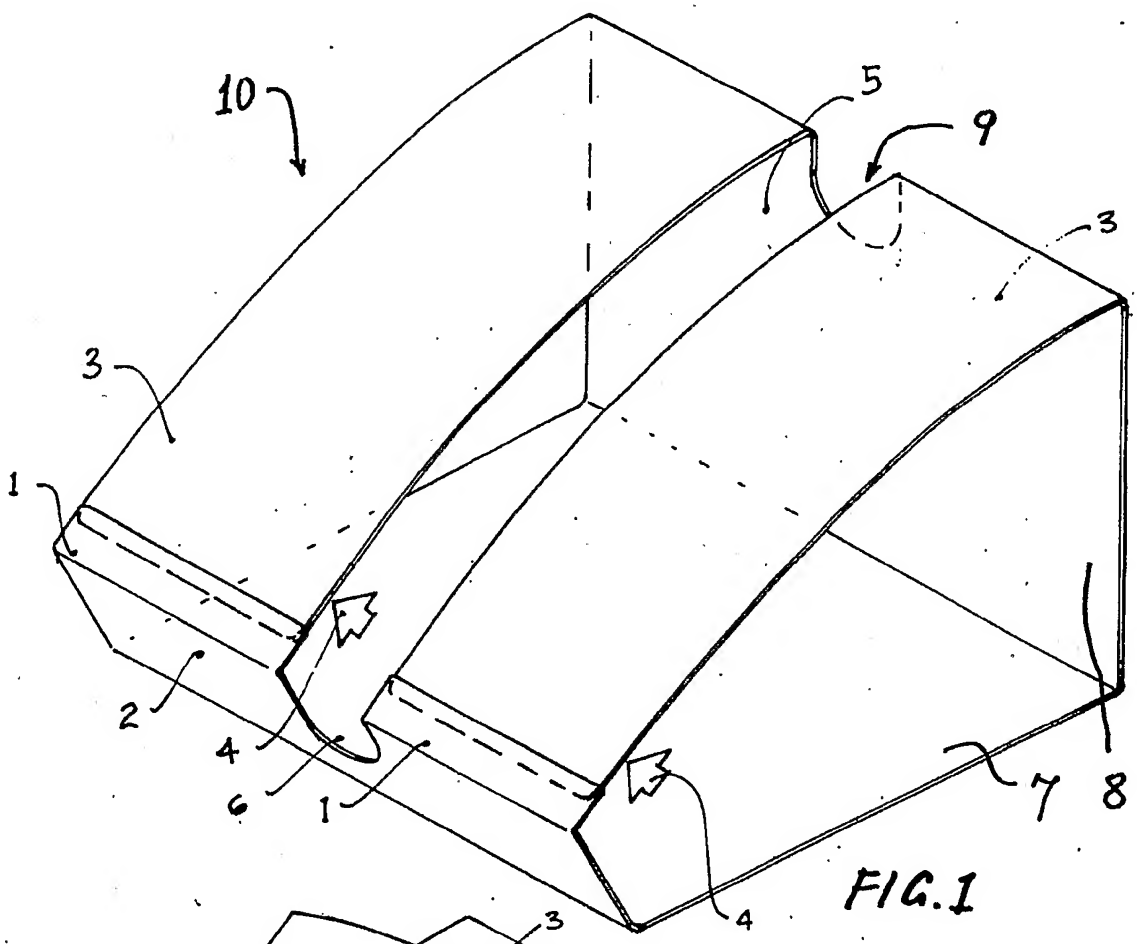


FIG.1

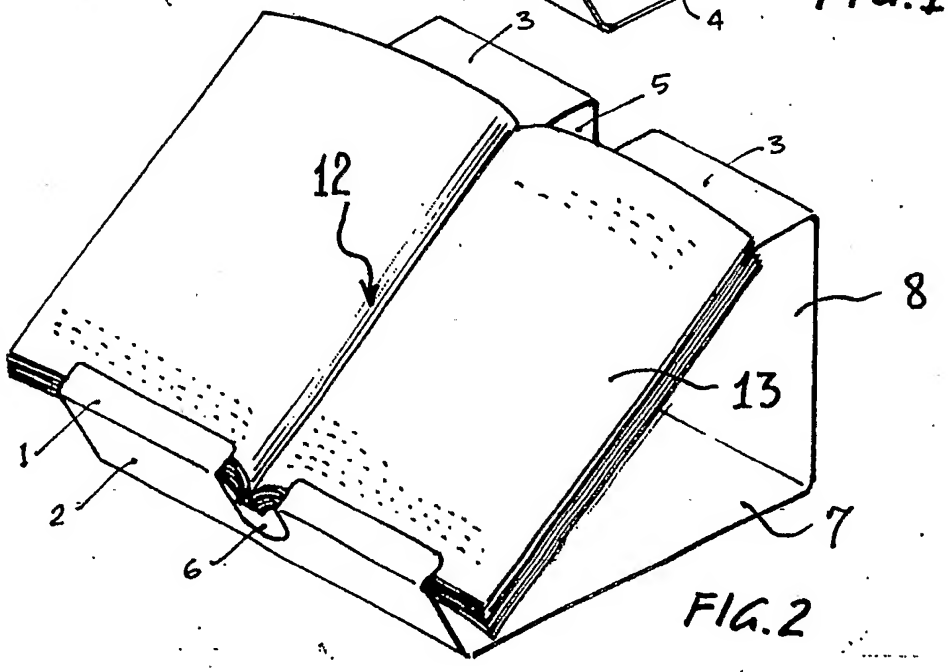


FIG.2

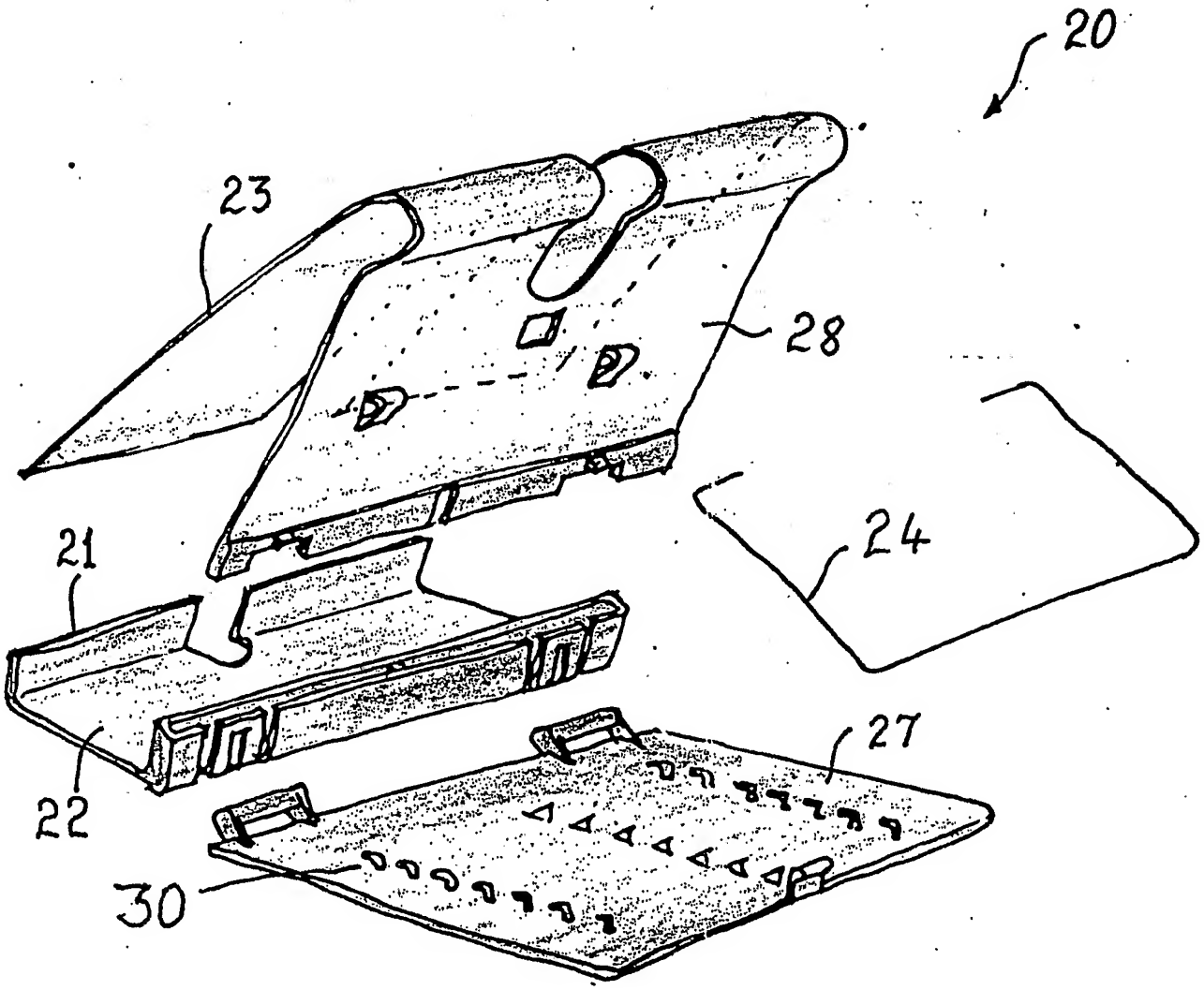
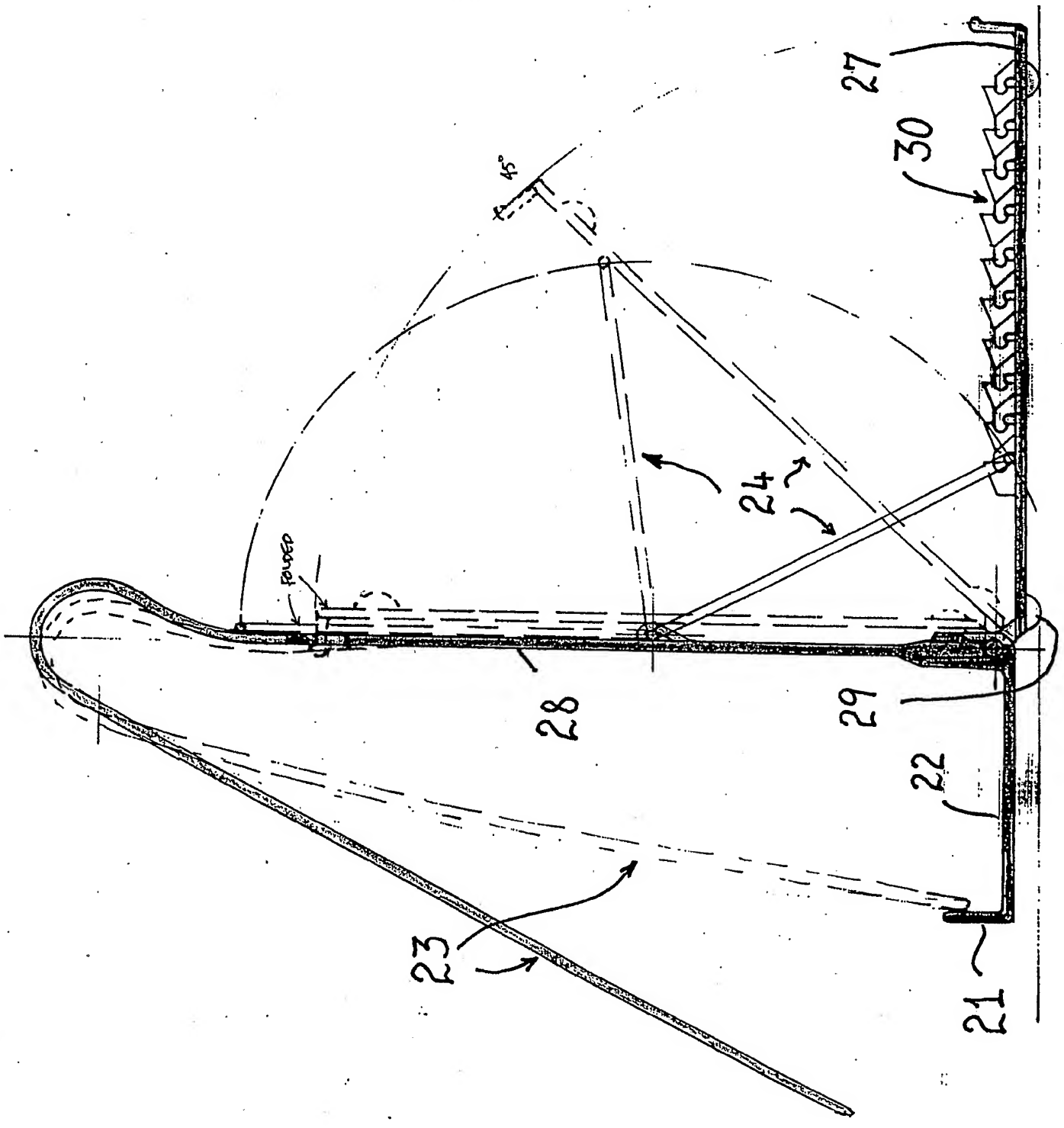


FIG.3

FIG.4



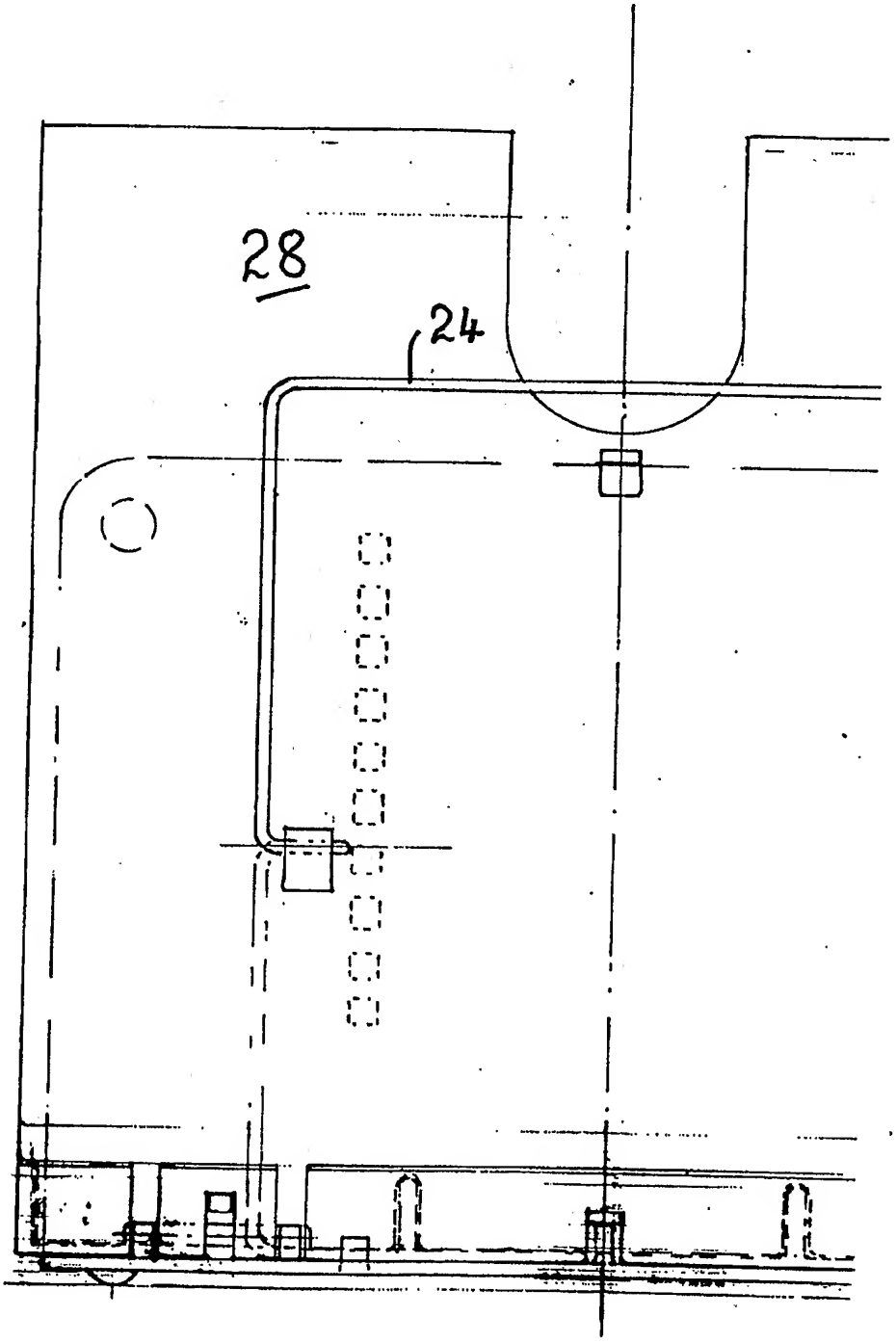


FIG. 5